

## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND GRANT PROGRAM

*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts)** [9.09 am]: I would like to inform the house of the contemporary music fund grant program and how it is spearheaded by a \$1 million grants program, which will assist homegrown contemporary music artists with projects that enable them to produce and promote their work, building links nationally and internationally. Over \$300 000 in funding has been provided to 29 Western Australian contemporary music projects so far this year as part of the contemporary music fund grant program.

The projects supported include the recording, production, marketing and distribution of new albums, the development and distribution of music videos for the international and national marketplace, and the opportunity to tour nationally to support the launch and release of new material. These projects support creative employment and economic development in an industry that is rich with talent and looking for that opportunity to connect with audiences at home, nationally and around the world. Also supported are opportunities for Western Australian musicians to attend leading international marketplaces and events such as The Great Escape Festival in Brighton, England, and South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, taking Western Australian music and stories to the world and connecting WA artists to global opportunities. The grants program also sits alongside \$2 million in targeted initiatives as part of the contemporary music fund, which aims to improve the representation of Aboriginal, regional, cultural and gender-diverse music artists in the industry. The program includes support for the work of community-based organisation Safer Venues WA, making venues safer for women and the whole community; and other programs such as the Girls Rock initiative, supporting and mentoring young women who are embarking on the first stages of their music careers. Further initiatives focused on supporting regional musicians, supporting young and emerging artists, creating national and international connections, celebrating Aboriginal musical culture, as well as musicians from other diverse backgrounds, will roll out throughout the rest of the year.

The Western Australian contemporary music sector has a strong and growing representation of award-winning nationally and internationally renowned female performers, with the strength of women in WA contemporary music seen at last year's West Australian Music Industry Awards. The McGowan government wants to build on this strength and close the gaps that still exist to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to find their full potential in our vibrant local entertainment industry. The contemporary music fund grant program's next major round is open now until 27 June 2019, offering funding between \$15 000 and \$60 000. For smaller grants under \$15 000, music artists can apply any time throughout the year.

I encourage all members to get behind this growing and talented industry and recognise the support provided through the McGowan government's contemporary music fund.